

where you are sitting and when you are gone attend to those things which you think are important. He will assume control of your cities, states, and nations. He is going to move in and take over your churches, your schools, your universities and corporations. The fate of humanity is in his hands.

Lincoln's words are as true today as they were more than a century and a half ago. There is no question that we have an obligation to protect our children to make sure they are safe now so they can grow into healthy, happy adults. So I urge my colleagues to remember that and to support antiterrorist efforts that will protect our children.

I thank my colleague for his kind comments. I, again, congratulate him on the birth of his child. We talked about that a little last week. I know what a wonderful occasion that is, what a great joy. I had the opportunity to see my colleague come into the Senate office building, probably for the first time, with his baby and see what a happy time that was. I thank him again for his deep and longstanding commitment to the children of this country.

Mr. DODD. Madam President, I thank my colleague from Ohio. As I said before, he not only brings an intellectual commitment to this issue but, with eight children and six grandchildren, he is a wellspring of good practical advice as well. If you have a bill about children and you want to know whether or not it is practically going to work, MIKE DEWINE is the fellow you want to talk to, given his family.

I thank him and point out, as he has said so eloquently here, that we have learned a lot in the last several days and weeks. The thing we have learned the most I guess is how little we know and how ill-prepared we are in many ways and how vulnerable we are. People take advantage of our freedoms to use those freedoms against us in many ways. The best answer to that is to not give up these freedoms but be better prepared to face the challenges. That is what Senator DEWINE advocated in his outline of four or five points that are to be included in any bill on bioterrorism where children are concerned.

Senator KENNEDY graciously has provided some time for us to have some hearings. It may not be possible this Friday. We had hoped to this Friday, but a couple of key witnesses we wanted to have testify may not be able to appear because of the demands that are being placed on them dealing with the present situation here in the Halls of Congress. But we may postpone it a week or so.

We want to look at this issue in a broad way. I have always thought some of the most important functions we engage in are not only legislating but providing a forum where people can be heard in order to educate people. So we would like to craft as well a comprehensive bill as we can to deal with children. We may not get it all done in a bioterrorism bill. We may look fur-

ther than that in the coming months, as to how best prepare America—families, parents, schools, childcare centers, others, as the Senator pointed out—how to deal with these situations, how to be well educated in their own response. The Subcommittee on Children and Families, which I serve now as chairman and on which I worked very closely with my colleague from Ohio on a number of bills in the past, will be holding a number of hearings on children and the effects of recent events in New York and Washington, the savage attacks on September 11 and then, of course, the most recent attacks here in Washington, Florida, New York, New Jersey, and elsewhere with anthrax. It is just an indication of the kinds of exposures to which we are all vulnerable.

We have a lot of work to do here but we welcome the challenge. I can't tell you how much I look forward to working with my colleague from Ohio and others. The Senator from Ohio properly pointed out there are a lot of our colleagues who are interested in this subject matter. Certainly Senator KENNEDY is, Senator FRIST has done a lot of work here, our colleague from New York, Senator CLINTON, has a deep interest in the subject matter and has made various proposals. We hope to be able to marshal all of this together and come out with the best ideas we can to deal with the immediate problems, and then recognize this must be an important part of our agenda in the coming months.

It is regretful to say that, but the world has changed. You can pretend it didn't happen, pretend it doesn't exist and leave yourself vulnerable to further attacks. Or you can address it. I think what the Senator from Ohio and I are suggesting this afternoon is that we address these problems.

I thank my colleague from Ohio for his comments and kind words.

Mr. DEWINE. I thank my colleague.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS

Mr. DODD. Madam President, a second subject matter I want to address is that with the bad news that we have daily been subjected to in this country since September 11 regarding international and domestic terrorism and finding and bringing those to justice who are responsible it is refreshing to be able to report on some good news. Today, it appears that a major obstacle to the full implementation of the Good Friday accords on the Northern Ireland peace process has been removed with the announcement by the IRA that it has begun to permanently put beyond use all its weapons. I believe that General de Chastelain, on behalf of the International Commission on Decommissioning, will shortly confirm that this has, in fact, been done.

For those of us, and there are many in this Chamber and the other body who have been involved in these issues

over the past 8 or 10 years, this is a very significant moment indeed.

It means that the sectarian differences which have torn Northern Ireland apart for nearly thirty years, and shed the blood of too many Irish men, women and children can now be addressed through dialog and compromise rather than by bullets and bombs.

In many ways the issue of decommissioning has been an unfortunate distraction that has delayed the implementation of key provisions of the 1998 Good Friday Accords—provisions that were specifically designed to address the problems that have plagued the six counties of the North for decades. Now Northern Ireland's political leadership should no longer be paralyzed by this side issue. Finally they can begin to deal with injustice and inequality—the real causes of the Troubles, as those who signed the Peace Accords committed themselves to do within the context of that agreement. There is no mystery as to what needs to be done—the issues of police reform, domestic security, human rights and equal opportunity for all the citizens of Northern Ireland must be tackled in good faith.

It has taken a great deal of courage on the part of Ireland's political leaders to bring us to where we are today. Many have done so at great personal risk to themselves. They have been willing to do so because they are mindful of the historical significance of their actions. I want to commend Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness of Sinn Fein for their tireless efforts to convince the IRA to trust in the political process as the only way to remedy past grievances. I commend as well David Trimble—Ulster Unionist Leader—for his courage in standing up to those elements of unionism who will not or cannot accept that all the peoples of the North are equal in the eyes of God and man. I cannot fail to mention the role that British and Irish political leaders Tony Blair and Bertie Ahern played in this drama—they stuck with the peace process even when it seemed as though it seemed at times that the obstacles were insurmountable. I believe that President Bush also should be commended for continuing President Clinton's policy of prodding all the parties to move forward to implement the Good Friday Accords so that Irish weapons will be silenced once and for all. I would be remiss if I did not also mention our former colleague, the former majority leader of this body, Senator George Mitchell of Maine, who played a key and pivotal role in crafting those Good Friday accords. I have not had the chance to speak to him today, but I am sure he is gratified by these recent developments. But most of all I want to heap praise on the individual who had the vision and determination to work for the last thirty years so that this day would happen, I am speaking of John Hume, among the greatest civil rights activists of his generation. Obviously there